

THE Shepherd's Fold

December 22, 2024

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dear Friends,

We have collectively entered the final stretch of Christmas preparations. Gathering the ingredients for Christmas meals, wrapping (or purchasing) the last few gifts, and making all of the arrangements before we celebrate the birth of our Savior. As Christians, we are not immune to the hustle and bustle of a world bathed in Christmas lights, jingles, and parties. But there's more to the story...

The Fourth Sunday of Advent is our final stop before we arrive in Bethlehem. On Sunday we are introduced to a young girl named Mary who is given the most magnificent news: she is going to bear the Christ child. This part of the story declares that the promises of God are finally coming true, the Lord has looked with favor upon his people and upon his servant, and God will dwell in flesh among us. We discover that God is with us, God is for us.

As we make those final preparations for next week and as we come to hear the story again and anew, may we remember that this magnificently good news of amazing grace is not just for us. This good news is a "joy to the world," a light in the darkness, a new hope in a weary and worried world. The most incredible gift we can ever give someone is the gift of the news that God loves them and that "unto us a Savior is born." Invite the people around you to hear that story at Good Shepherd on Sunday and Christmas Eve. We will also welcome the newcomer, connect with first time worshippers, and invite them to participate in our common life together, a life marked by the goodness and graciousness of God.

Peace,
Porter+

CHURCH CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed, **December 24-26th**. The office will close at noon on December 31st and will reopen on January 2nd.

NO BREAKFAST SUNDAY

Breakfast will resume on Sunday, January 5th.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is part of our ongoing “yes” to opening our hearts fully to the Lord and joining him in his redemptive work in the world. The Vestry will soon begin budget preparations for 2025. Pledge cards help us have an accurate picture of our financial landscape during the budget season and allow us to plan for our ongoing mission and ministry. It is not too late to submit your pledge for 2025 online, by return mail, or on Sunday.

ADVENT RESOURCES

Printed copies of our three Advent resources (Resource Guide, O Antiphons Liturgy, and A Liturgy for the Lighting of Advent Candles) are now available in the Foyer. Stop by and pick up a copy if you prefer a print version. We created these resources to be used and to be shared, so please enjoy them and pass them along!

ADVENT BOOK CLUB

Bishop Logue has selected *The Love That is God* by Fritz Bauerschmidt as his 1Book1Diocese Advent read. This is an amazing book and it's only 128 pages! I encourage everyone to purchase a copy and read it. For those who want to “read

together,” join me for a Book Club discussion this Sunday, December 22 at 4:30pm in the Conference Room. All are invited and welcome!
- Porter+



ADVENT PAGEANT

Saturday, **December 21st**, the speaking cast will rehearse from 9:30-11:30 in the sanctuary. Animals and Angels will gather in the parish hall at 10:30 for a full rehearsal. Pizza will be served at 11:30 in the small parish hall. Sunday, **December 22nd**, all children should arrive by 8:15 to put on costumes. Cast will be in the Chapel of the Resurrection. Animals in the conference room, and Angels in the parish Hall. This is a good time to take pictures. Parents, save space in the pew for your child. They will join you at the conclusion of the pageant. Be sure to return the costumes to the correct rack.

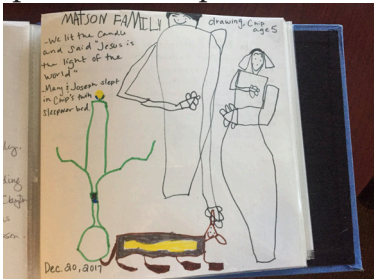
ADVENT PAGEANT RECEPTION

Help celebrate our children with goodies and punch in the parish hall immediately following the 8:30 service. Sign up in the Shell to bring a sweet or savory dish or call Jinny or Lynn.



CHILDREN OF THE CRECHE

Children bringing figures to the crèche will line up at 3:45pm in front of the church. They will enter the church during the singing of “The Friendly Beasts.” At the conclusion of the hymn, they will join parents in the pew.



THE POSADA

Joseph and Mary continue their journey to the homes of the Bowden's December 20, the Austin's December 21, the Sutherland-Nesbits December 22, and the McKennas December 23. The McKennas will return the Holy Family during the 4pm service December 24th.

STAFFING CHANGE

Emily Mumford will be leaving her position as Parish Administrator for a new position of Business Administrator at Grace United Methodist Church. Her last day at Good Shepherd is December 30. We are grateful for her work and

service for the past ten years and we wish her well!

COGS

Thanks so much to everyone for supporting COGS ministries in our community this year at Golden Harvest, Habitat for Humanity Restore, Downtown Cooperative Church Ministries, Take Back the Block, and numerous events at the Byllesby Center including Fall Festival, Thanksgiving Boxes, and Christmas Festival. Our new Rector has pointed out that we are not simply volunteers but ministers spreading the message of the Gospel and mission of Good Shepherd in the community with our outreach. Wishing everyone a blessed Advent and Christmastide. Please let me know of any ideas for further ministry or if anyone would like to serve helping in coordinating our outreach. In the New Year our COGs outreach ministry will begin at Golden Harvest on **Jan 11th** from 1-4pm packing food including backpack meals and senior boxes for those with food insecurity in our community. If you would like to participate please let Lynn Tyson know ltyson517@gmail.com.

Servers of the Shepherd

Sunday, December 22, 2024

8:30 AM

Organist & Choirmaster Jim Nord
Lay Readers Bob Nesbit, Cissy Bowden
Verger..... Kathleen Bailie
Ushers John Stewart, Drew Daniel
Acolytes..... Charlotte Jones, Maerritt Jones,
Rob Wynn

11:00 AM

Organist & Choirmaster Jim Nord
Lay Readers Kelley Norris, Heather Wheeler
Verger..... Rob Dennis
Ushers Paul Trotter, Mike Leverett
Acolytes..... Elle Benjamin, Raymon Benjamin,
Spencer Weston, Annie Weston

6:00 PM

Organist & Choirmaster Jim Nord
Lay Readers Jennie Haynes, Faith Moore

All Services

Altar Guild Team I
Vestry Person of the Day John Manton

CHRISTMAS AT — GOOD SHEPHERD —



December 22

8:30am Advent Pageant & Holy Eucharist
10:00am Advent Pageant Reception
11:00am Advent IV Holy Eucharist
6:00pm Advent IV Holy Eucharist

December 24

4:00pm Christmas Eve Family Service
6:00pm Christmas Eve Service with the
Saint Gregory Choir
10:00pm Christmas Eve Service with the
Good Shepherd Choir

December 25

11:00am Christmas Day Holy Eucharist